

An Experimental inquiry into
The Cathartic Properties
of the
Podophyllum - Polatum

By

Godwin Cotton Moon

of
North Carolina

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweet self on the desert air,

Dry

Philadelphia

1828

It has ever been
a regret, that the
I have more attended
not of disease more
use of any late pro-
gress, and how few
opportunities as the production
we lost in the little
of the most valuable
indication of this can-
not us to hope that
with this encouragement
a course to reward
the attention to this
state, when we shall
see our resources over
government so nobly
adjusted as that
the world? Are not
the right occasions

1

It has ever been to me a subject both of astonishment and regret, that the virtues of our own indigenous plants have not been more attended to and their application to the management of disease more general. Let us but cast our eyes over the pages of any late popular work on the subject of American Medicinal, and how few are the articles there mentioned that we recognize as the production of the United States. Few indeed they are, but in this little number we claim to have made some of the most valuable contributions of any country since the introduction of this subject to the world. Should this not urge us to hope that by investigating the properties of those plants that ornament our hills and valleys many are yet in reserve to reward the diligence of any who may turn their attention to this object, and that the day is not far distant, when we shall be as independent of the old world for our resources in medicine as we are in our institutions or government? Is not the climate of the United States as propitious as that of any other section of the habitable world? Are not her lands as congenial to the growth of the vegetable creation? How it is that in all that exten-

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No
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The result of

any tract of Country stretching from Mass to Georgia
from the Atlantic to the Pacific we may find a region
adapted to the production of such articles as we receive
from the pleasant plains of France or Spain or from cold
and inhospitable Gibras or Sweden. What an ample field
is then opened to the speculative and experimentalist in the
abundance and variety of the productions of our land. Perhaps
in the secluded valley or mountainous regions some articles are
yet to be discovered possessed of powers capable of reaching the
rest of some of those diseases that now stand in the list of
the officinae medicorum, and as monuments of the inefficacy of
our art. Is it rational to suppose that our country which nature
has thrown in her most magnificent and beautiful mould, should
be stinted or niggardly in her articles adapted to remedial
purposes? And if our Rivers, Lakes, Plains and Mountains furnish
an approach to perfection, we cannot for a moment suppose that
the work is defective in the Vegetable part of Creation...!!!

Having offered these few introductory
remarks I propose to give in the following lines
the result of a course of experiments made with

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of Richard

one of our own indigenous roots in contrast with an article of high and famous celebrity as a cathartic—the latter being also an inhabitant of the New world, but not of that portion included within the boundaries of the United States. The article in question are the *Pedophyllum Peltatum* and *Coneostegia Salapa*. These experiments I respectfully submit to my able and very distinguished instructors being confident, that an attention & examination of my part has been wanting to render them as accurate as the nature of the case would permit—giving to each a fair and unprejudiced trial.

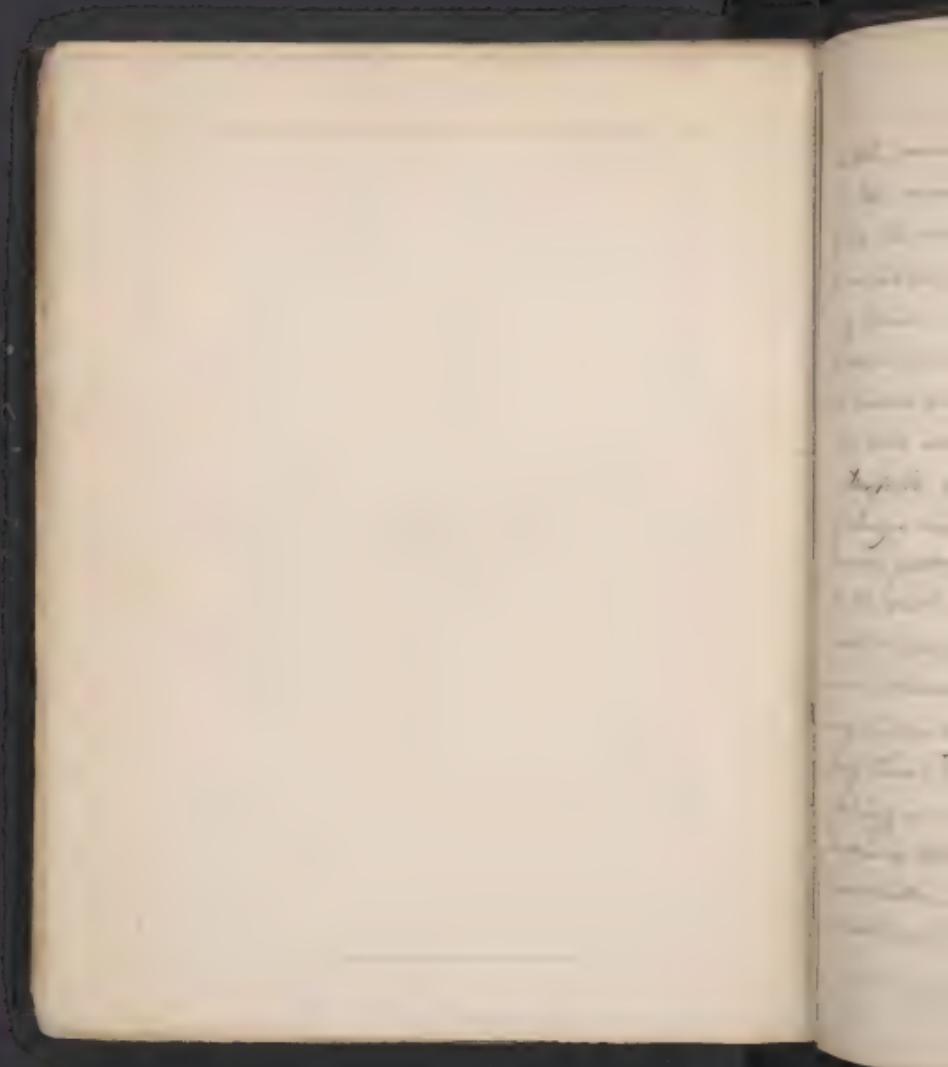
The *Cone⁵ Salapa* or the plant
herbaceous described by Linnaeus, Willdenow, Woodville
and others by this title was first discovered growing
near the city Salapa in Mexico—it was afterwards
supposed to be an inhabitant of the United States
also as identified with the *Promaea Macrocarpa*
of Michaux the father. Of the truth of this identity

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with darker o
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The Throat c
plumbeous like
has a yellow
calomel etc
Many of them
surface. Very
disagreeable

I shall not pretend to determine, but leave it to
those more skilled in the Botanical history of the
articles under considerations. Having been intro-
duced into the Malice Medicis it became an
object of considerable Medical research and,
has from that time down to the present supported
an unimpeached reputation. Its sensible
properties are thus described by a distinguished
Physician. "It is brought to us in thin round
slices, which are covered with a blackish wrinkled
rind, all of a dark grey colour internally, marked
with darker or blackish stripes. It has a nauseous
smell and taste and when swallowed it affects
the Throat with a sense of heat and occasions a
plentiful discharge of Saliva. When powdered it
was a yellowish grey colour, and combined with
Calomel it is a remedy of undoubted utility in
many of the disorders to which our climate is
subject. Let see it is subject to some disadvantages
disagreeable in their nature, such as gnawing and

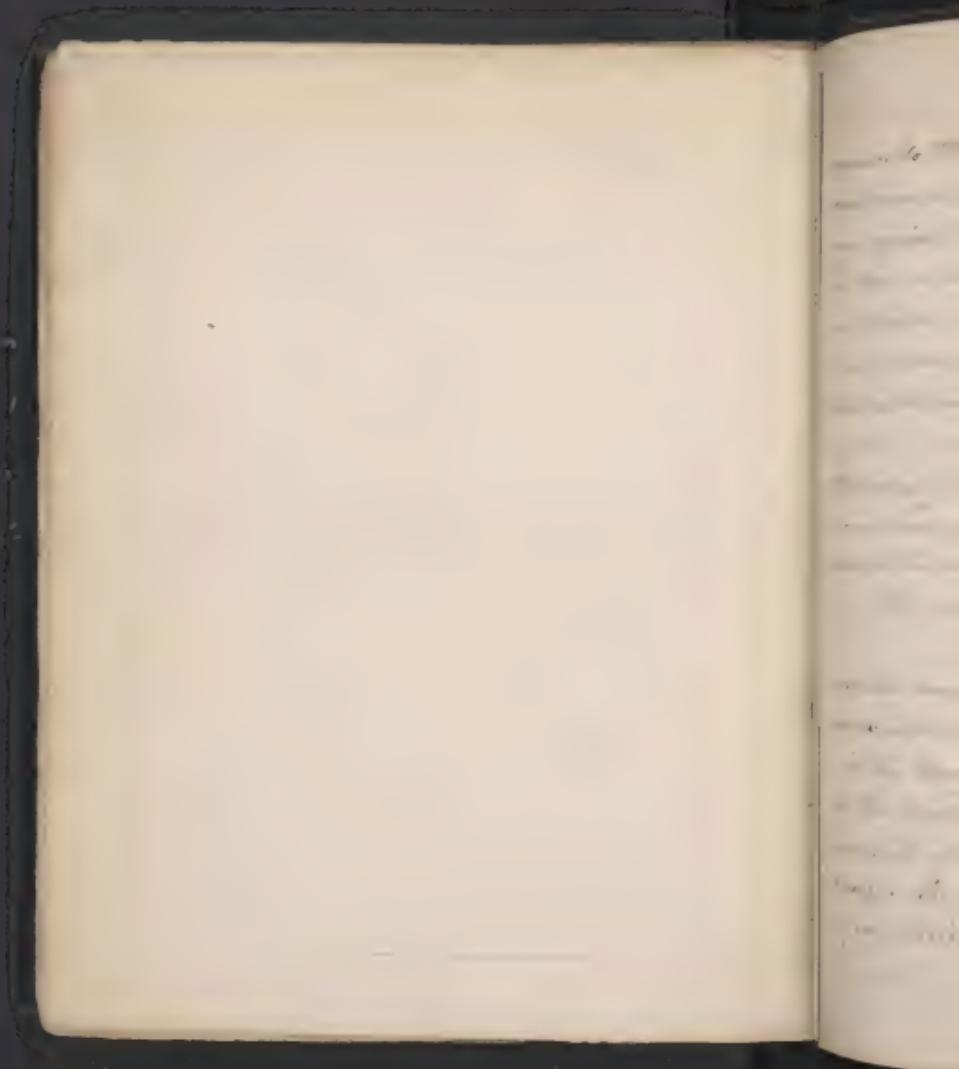
The investigation
wishes - this
my part of the
the Clap sea
I conceive to
movement as
that any fair
start would
you wish any fur
recommendations or
best valuation
would welcome

is a native of
United States.
The May Apple
was Specie
It is among the
values its types
thing (as rare)

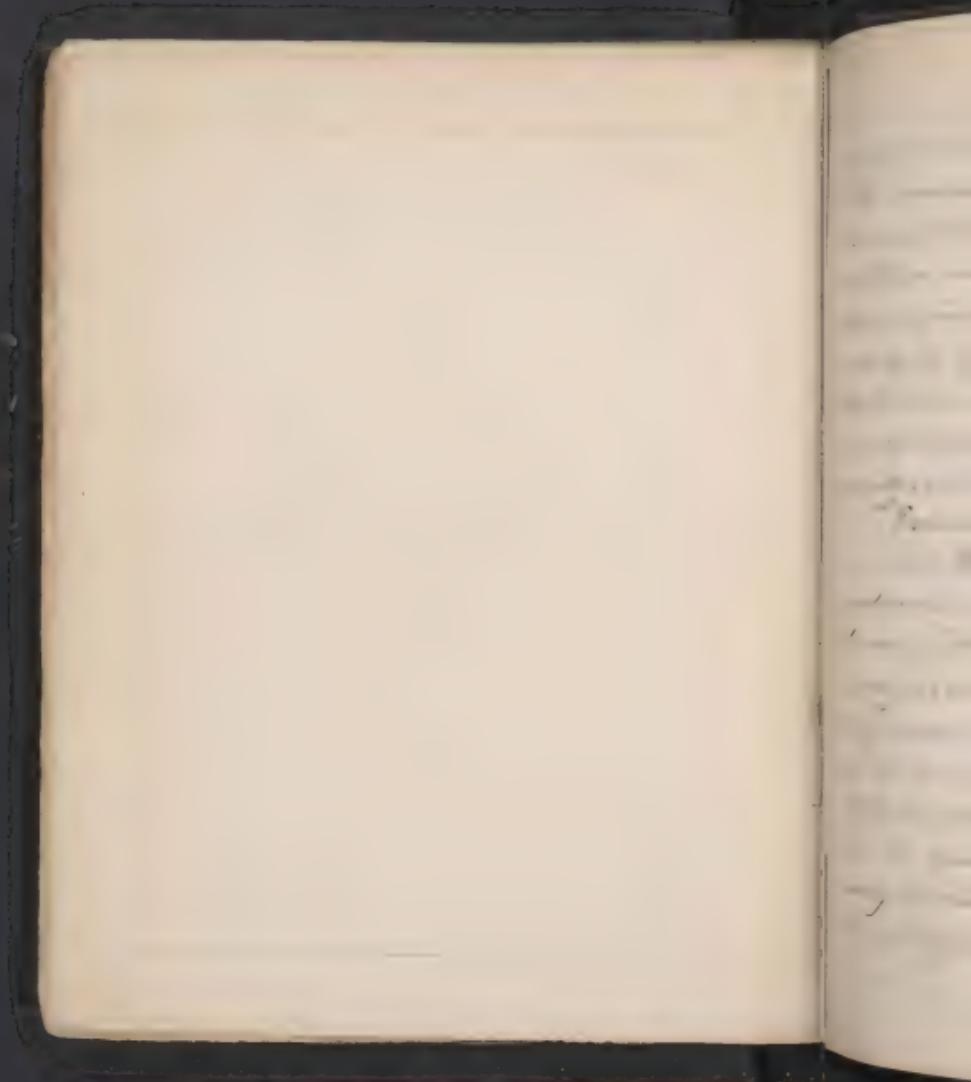


longing
of life

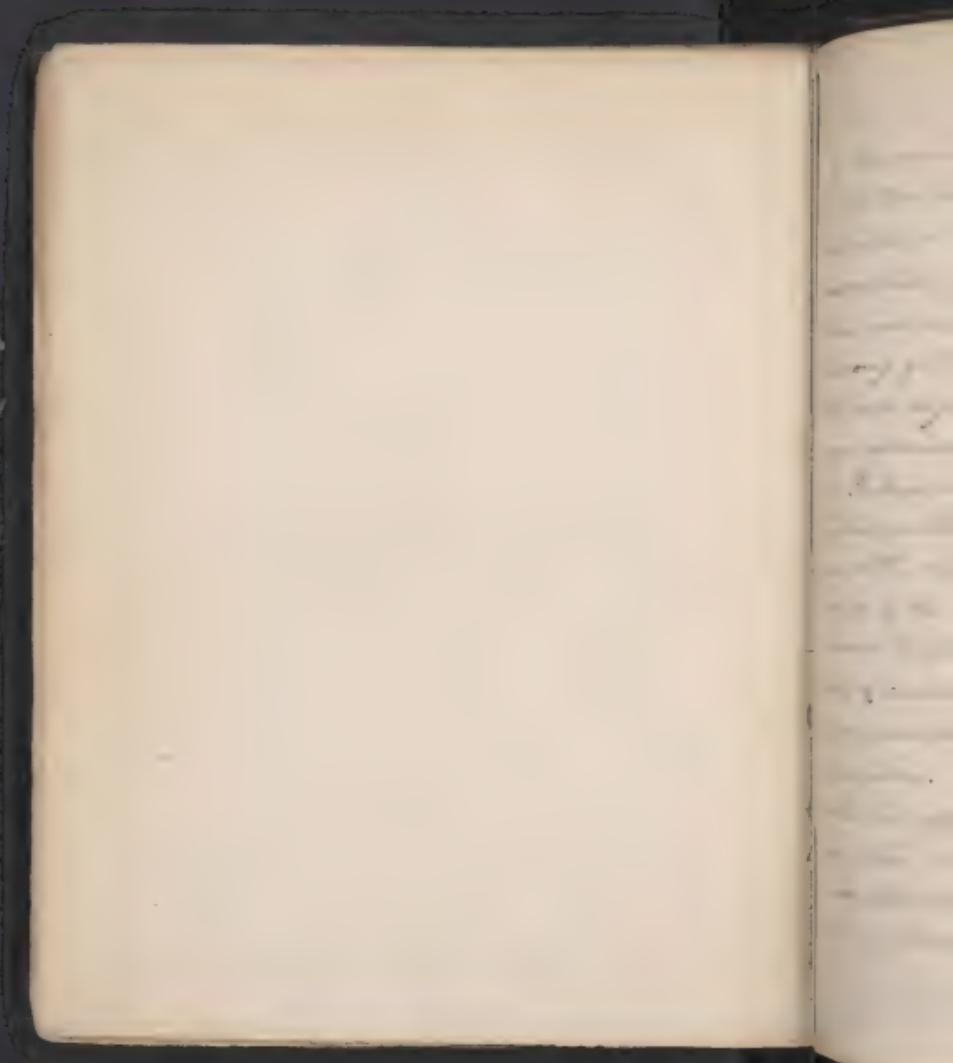
and the
whole



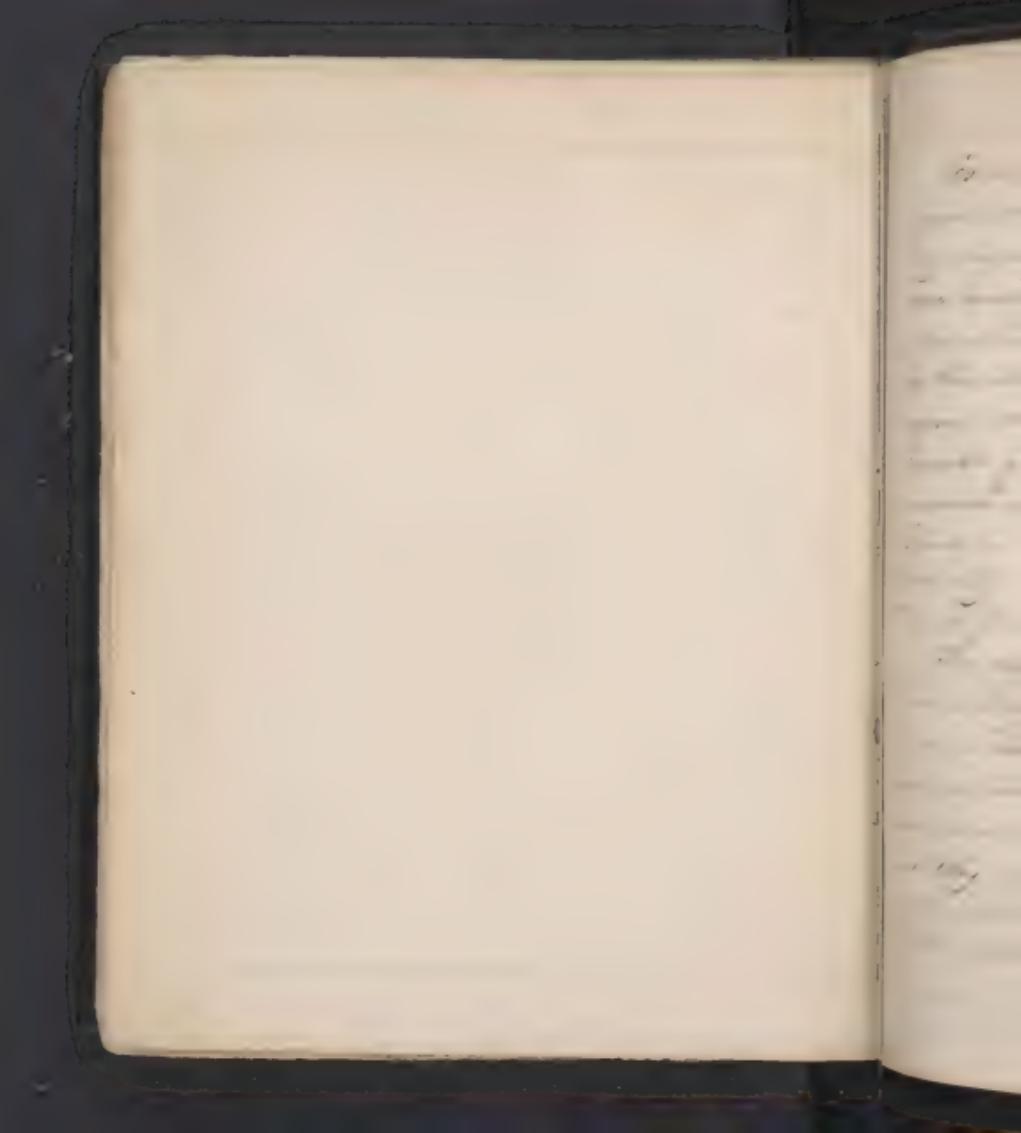
1860 Oct 27. - 1860 Oct 27.



in which the author has written
the following words: "I have
written this book for the use of
myself and my wife, and for
the use of our children, and for
the use of our friends, and for
the use of all who are interested
in the study of the Holy
Scriptures. I have written
it in a simple language, so that
it may be easily understood by
all who are interested in it.
I have written it in a simple
language, so that it may be easily
understood by all who are interested
in the study of the Holy
Scriptures. I have written
it in a simple language, so that
it may be easily understood by
all who are interested in it.



and the author's name
is written in ink.
The book is bound in
dark brown leather
with gold-tooled
decorations on the
front cover and spine.
The spine has the
title "The Great
Book of Knowledge".
The pages are aged
and yellowed, showing
signs of wear and
fading.

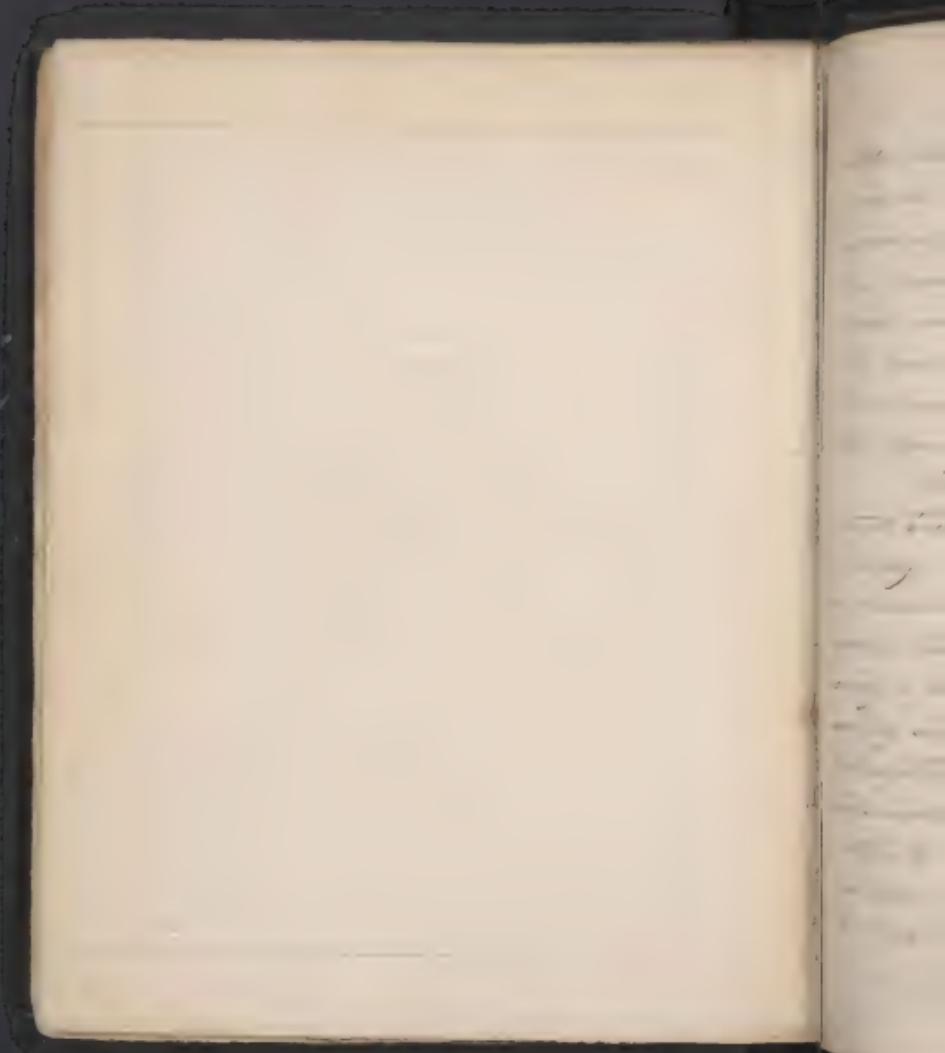


1000 ft. above sea level

1000 ft. above sea level

1000 ft.

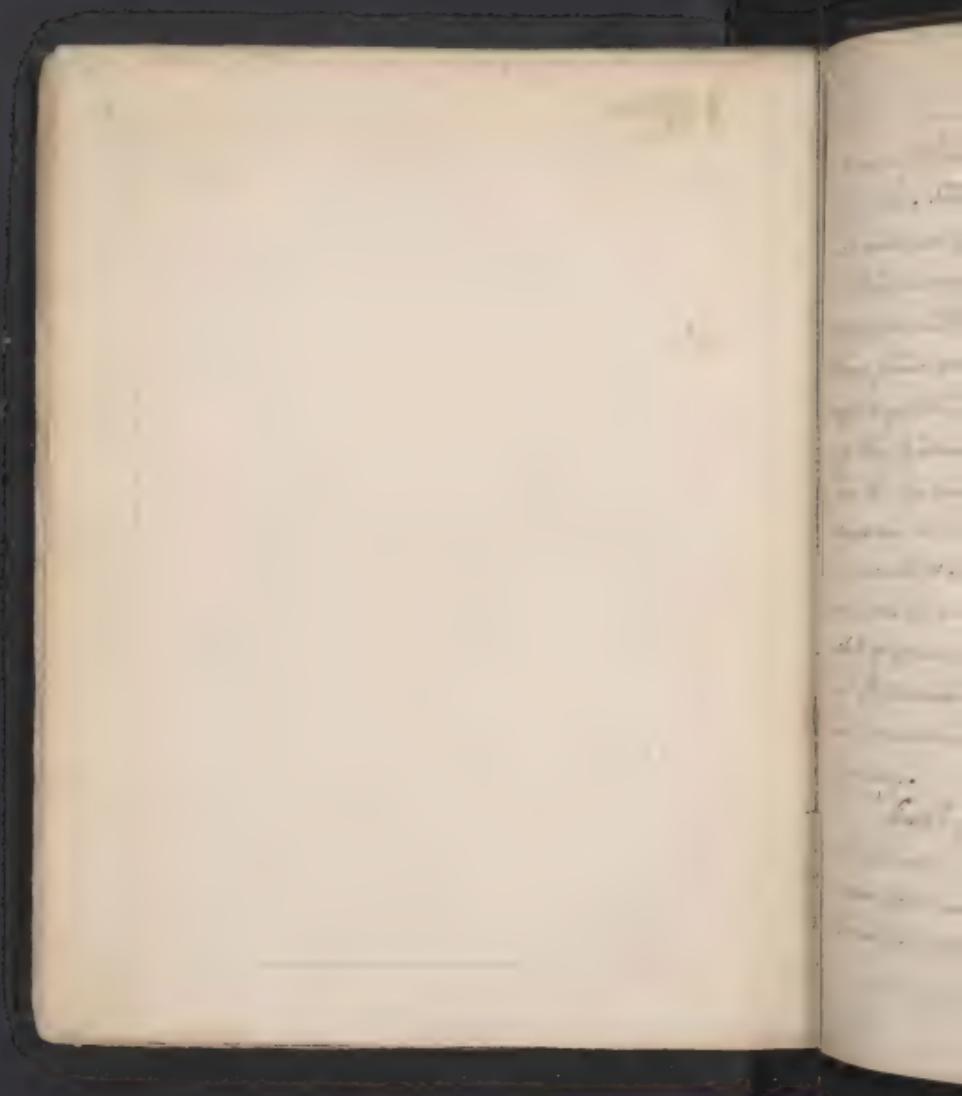
1000 ft.



and I am going to

see you again

and I will see you again





1
I am sorry to say that
the weather has been
so bad that I have not
been able to get out
as much as I would like
to do. I have been
able to get out a few
times but the weather
has been so bad that
I have not been able
to get out as much as
I would like to do.
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the weather has been
so bad that I have not
been able to get out
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to do. I have been
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I would like to do.



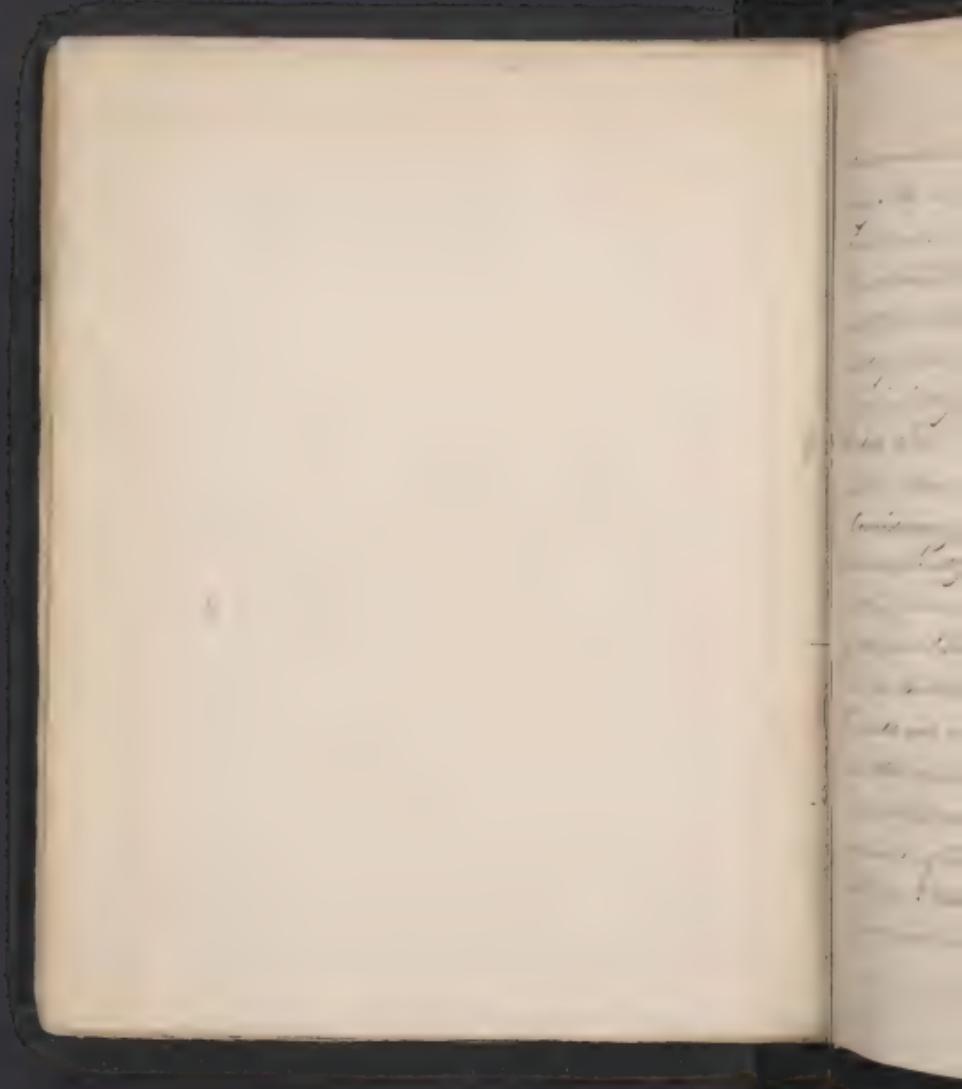
By this I mean that
the majority of them will
not be able to do so
without some assistance
from others in the form
of guidance by others.

I don't mean to argue
that it is impossible for
anybody to do this
without help from others
but I do mean to say

that it is much easier
and more effective to have
some guidance than to try to
do it all alone.

So I hope you will be
able to find some help
in your work.





the first time I
had seen it.

The first time I
had seen it.

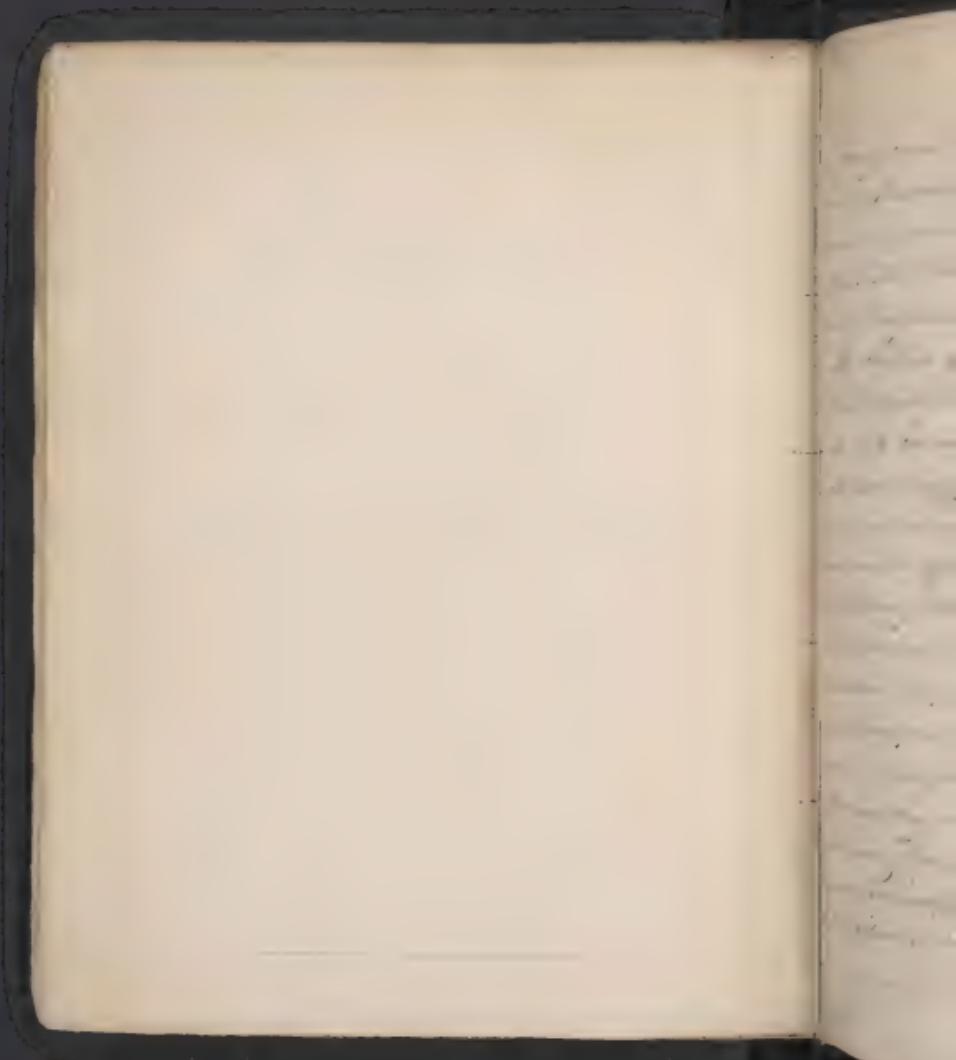
Considered by me to be a
very good specimen.

Very good specimen.

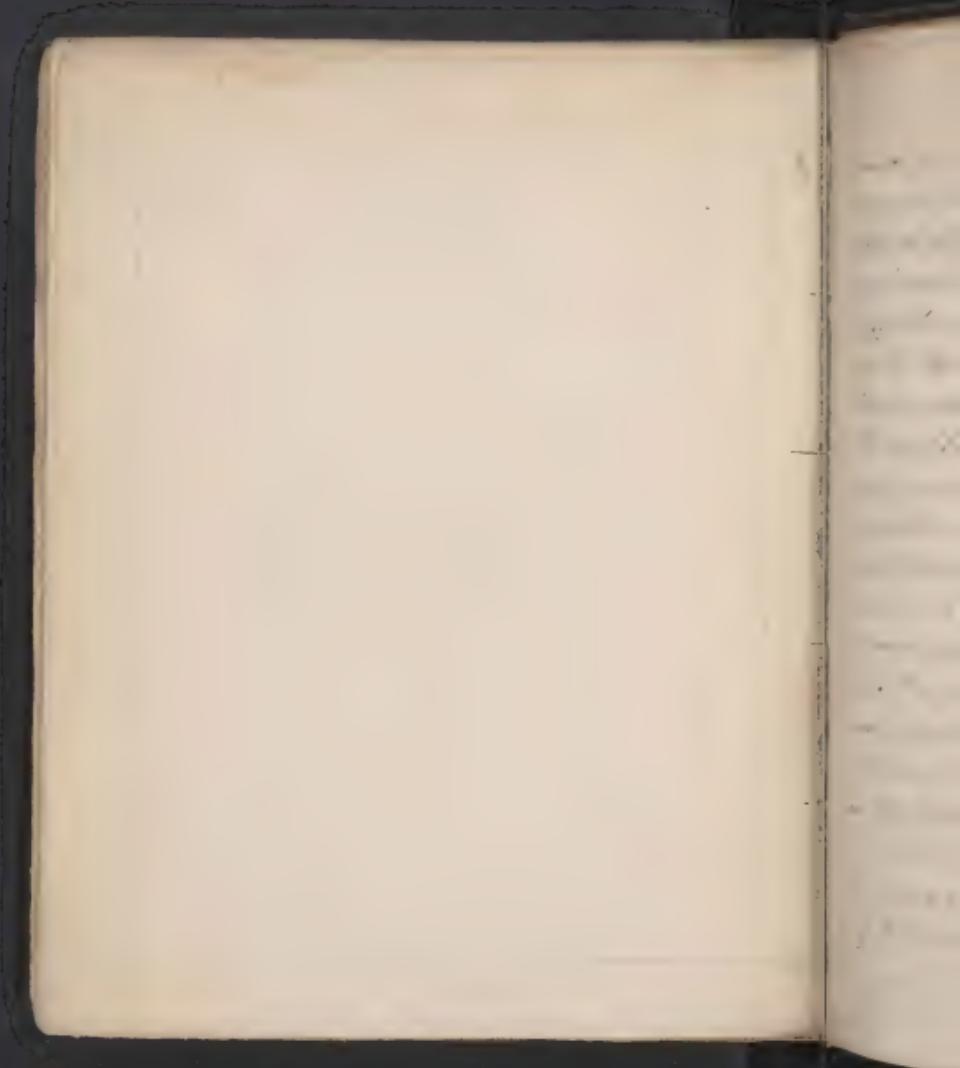
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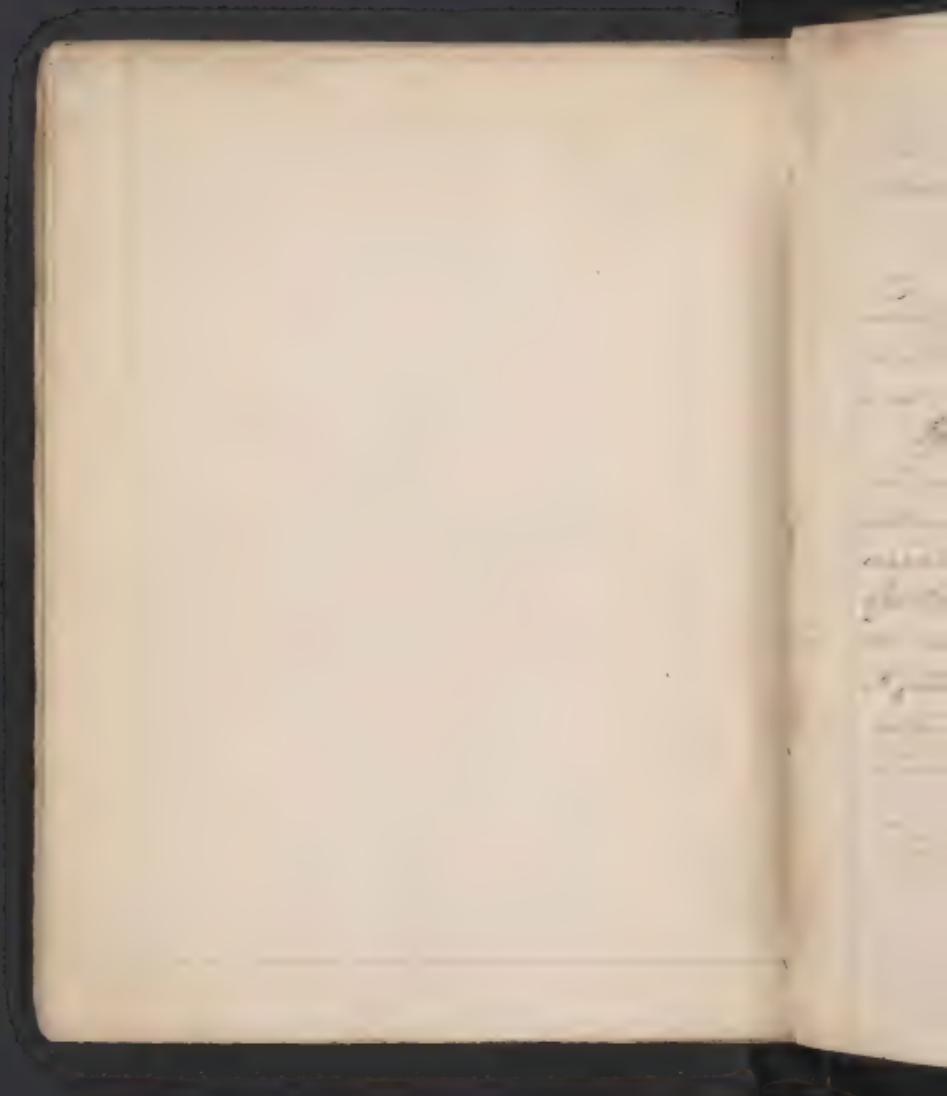
Considered by me to be a
good specimen.



In my desire to bring him up to me
I carry the following
and other articles with me
which I have found useful
in my travels.
A small pocket compass
is a valuable article
as it is always useful
in finding your way
in the woods or fields.
A pocket knife
is also a valuable article
as it is useful in
many ways.
A small pocket compass
is a valuable article
as it is always useful
in finding your way
in the woods or fields.



18



12



